

NC DHHS K-12 COVID-19 Response Updates & Resources

Non-Public Schools Webinar
March 26, 2021



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



Thank you for being here!

- **Before we get started:**

- Make sure to respect other attendees by staying on mute
- Video on or off is up to you
- As questions come to mind, please enter them in the chat box, changing audience to “everyone” not just “panelists”
- We will try our best to reply in writing or live, but it may have to wait until Q&A
- This webinar will be recorded and shared with you via email, along with today’s slides

Welcome to your **second**
statewide webinar,
North Carolina Non-Public
Schools!

Watch Webinar 1 again!
NC Non-Public Schools Town Hall
December 10, 2020

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES


#StayStrongNC
StrongSchoolsNC

North Carolina Non-Public Schools Town Hall
December 10, 2020



Learning From Each Other


Mr. Kyler Ketner
High School Principal
Liberty Christian School
Durham


Mrs. Beth Peters
Head of School
Greenfield School

North Carolina Department of Health

COVID-19 Vaccination


A tested, safe and effective vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies will be limited at first


The best way to fight COVID-19 is to start first with vaccinations for those most at risk, then reach more people as the vaccine supply increases throughout 2021


Children will not receive vaccines until clinical trials with children are completed to ensure that they are also safe and work to prevent COVID-19 illness in kids

More information at <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines>

Recap: Who Are NC's Non-Public Schools?

796

Private Schools in NC

1/5

Of All Schools In The
State Are Private Schools

65%

Of NC's Private Schools
are Religious

104,000

Students Enrolled In
Private Schools
2019-2020 school year

6.4%

Of All Students In The
State Go To Private
Schools

Today's Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Brief Updates: K-12 Public Health Requirements**
- 3. Focus Topic: Rapid Antigen Testing**
- 4. Q&A**

Speakers

Geoff Coltrane

Senior Education Advisor, Office of the Governor

Natalie Ivanov

Program Director, COVID-19 Testing, NCDHHS

Rebecca Planchard

Senior Policy Advisor, NCDHHS

Special Thank-You To:

- **Chena Flood**, Department of Administration
- **Joe Haas**, NC Christian School Association
- **Linda Nelson**, NC Association of Independent Schools

Welcome



Geoff Coltrane, MPP

*Senior Education Advisor
Office of the Governor*



Brief Updates: K-12 Public Health Requirements

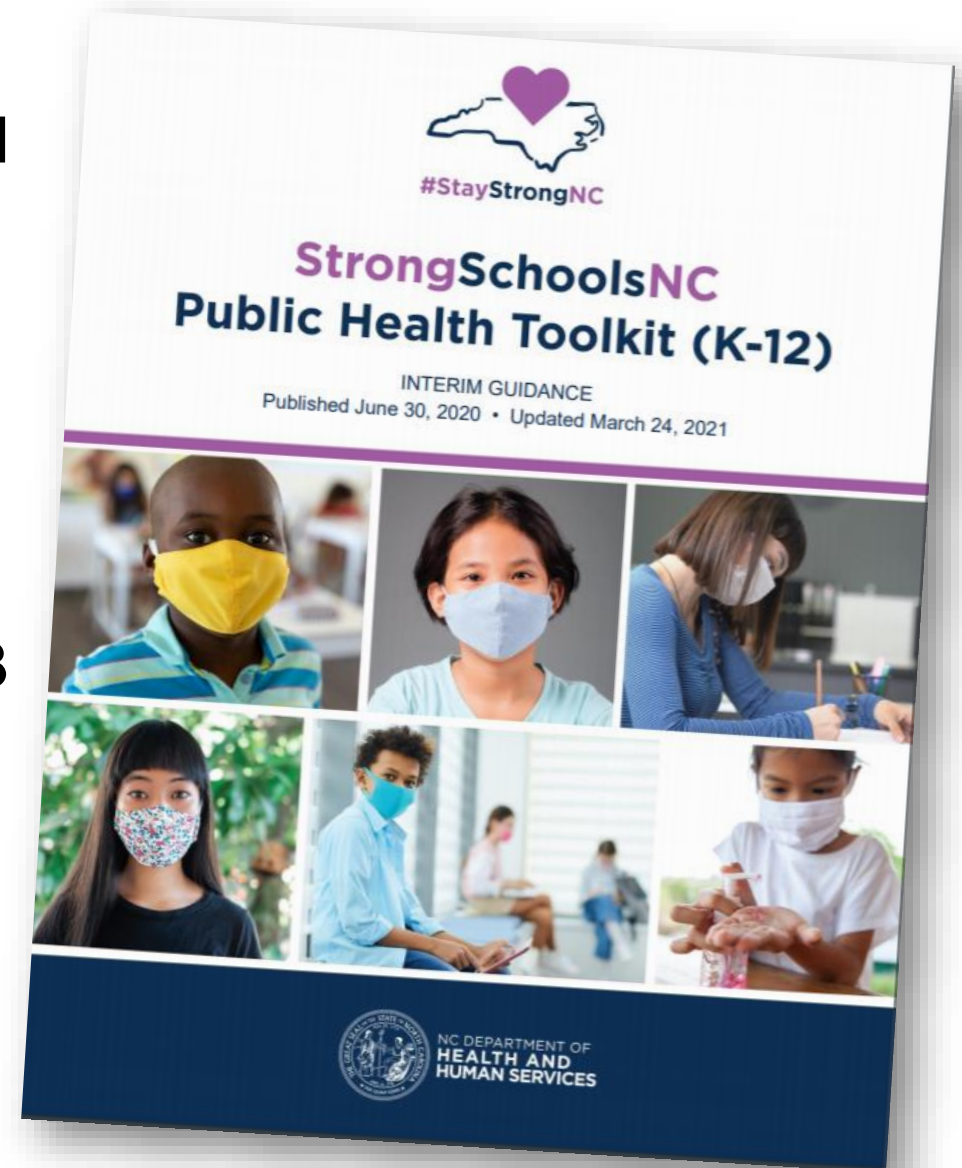
CDC K-12 Guidance Released Feb., Updated March

- Directs consistent use of layered mitigation strategies, especially universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.
- 3 ft. physical distancing recommended at a minimum for students, 6 ft. for adults
- Recommends vaccines as an additional mitigation effort: teachers and school staff should be prioritized for receiving vaccine when supply is available.
- Recommends that K-12 schools support local health departments in facilitating contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine efforts.
- **Recommends diagnostic and screening testing for COVID-19 as an additional layer of mitigation.**

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

March StrongSchoolsNC Guidance Updates – Aligned to CDC

- Daily symptom screenings are no longer required: they can be considered for adults and are not recommended for children
 - However, exclusion based on symptoms, close contact, or a positive case still applies
- K – 12th Schools should return to in-person instruction to the fullest extent possible up to five days per week under Plan A or Plan B.
- Incorporated CDC physical distance recommendations for Plan A only that at least 3 feet of physical distance between children and 6 feet between adults; No changes to Plan B (remains 6 feet of distance required at all times)
- The CDC does not include recommendations about physical barriers, such as plexiglass





Focus Topic: Rapid Antigen Testing

Review: How do we test for COVID-19?

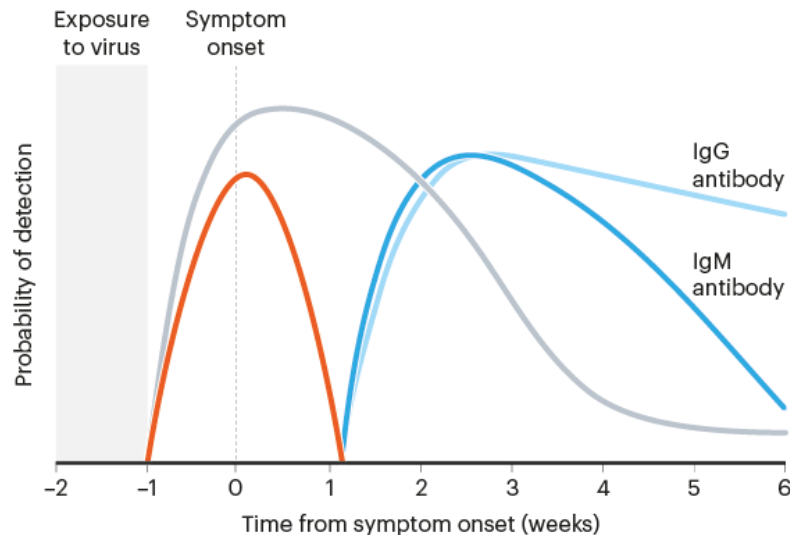
- Molecular/PCR-based tests and **antigen** tests diagnose current infection
- **Antibody** tests detect prior infection
- Abbott BinaxNOW are antigen tests; samples are collected via nasal swab

Different types of COVID-19 test can detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus or the body's response to infection. The probability of a positive result varies with each test before and after symptoms appear.

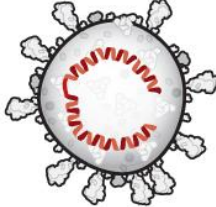
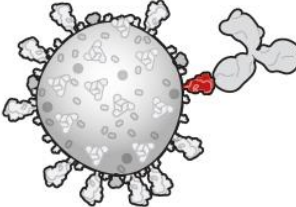

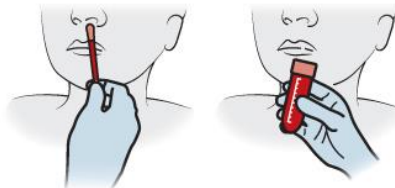
— **PCR-based tests** can detect small amounts of viral genetic material, so a test can be positive long after a person stops being infectious.

— **Rapid antigen tests** detect the presence of viral proteins and can return positive results when a person is most infectious.

— **Antibody tests** detect the body's immune response to the virus and are not effective at the earliest phase of infection.



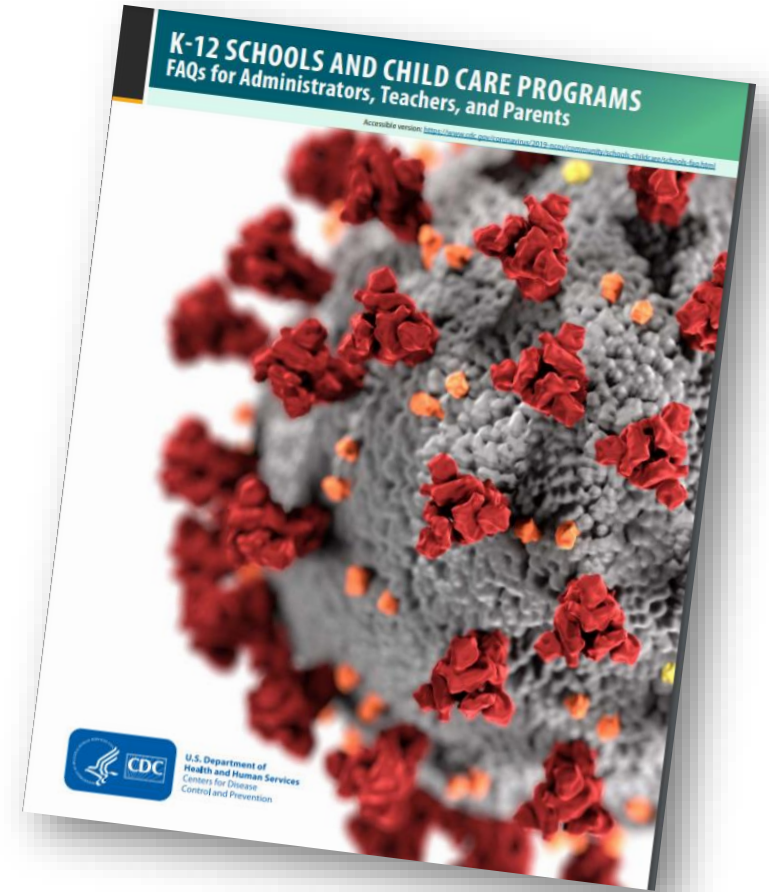
©nature

Predominant type of test	PCR-based	Antigen
	RNA amplification 	Antigen testing 
Sample collection	Swab 	Swab or saliva 
Turnaround time	Days	Minutes
Cost	\$\$\$	\$
Accuracy	High	Moderate

CDC Recommends COVID-19 testing in K-12 Schools

The CDC released its updated K-12 School Operational Strategy on March 4th, 2021, which encourages testing as an additional layer of prevention in schools – NC guidance aligns

- **Testing should be combined with other key mitigation strategies**, such as NC's StrongSchools requirements: universal mask use, physical distancing, handwashing and maintaining healthy and clean facilities
- **Diagnostic testing** for individuals who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 at school or have recent known close contact to a person with COVID-19
- **Screening testing** for all K-12 staff (adults) on a regular, routine basis (e.g., weekly) using rapid tests.



NC DHHS Expanding Access to Free Antigen Tests for K-12 Schools

- In the fall, the US Department of Health and Human Services procured and distributed to states Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 tests
 - Designed for rapid diagnosis of active infections within 5-7 days of symptom onset
 - Generally, less sensitive than PCR tests (greater chance of false negatives).
 - **Who can do the tests?** Someone who has undergone a training from BinaxNOW (does not need to be a healthcare professional). Testing personnel must collect and report patient and result information properly.
 - **Where can the tests be done?** A location that has a CLIA certificate of waiver and meet CLIA regulatory requirements
- NC DHHS used these free tests to conduct a pilot of COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools
 - From Dec 2020 to Mar 2021, 57,000 free tests were sent to 18 schools districts and 13 charter schools to conduct testing at over 200 schools
 - 3 check-in meetings along with a pre- and post- survey were used to support participants and gather qualitative and quantitative data about participating schools' experience



NC DHHS Expanding Access to Antigen Tests for K-12 Schools

Based on lessons learned from our pilot, NC DHHS will be expanding access to COVID-19 rapid testing to K-12 non-public schools on an opt-in basis to add further protection for our students, school staff and teachers.

What

Non-public schools may choose to request tests for:

1. Testing of all individuals, including students, their families and school staff, who are symptomatic or had known exposure to a confirmed positive case
2. Once weekly screening of all adults – including teachers and staff
3. Routine screening of student athletes and / or screening prior to tournaments
4. Screening related to Spring Break, graduation or special events

Who

All non-public schools are eligible to request tests

When

All non-public schools are able to request tests through at least the end of the calendar school year

How

Non-public schools interested in receiving the free tests are responsible for developing a plan to meet all testing requirements before submitting online request form to NC DHHS

To Receive Free COVID-19 Tests, Non-Public Schools Must:

Participating private schools are responsible for meeting all of the below requirements:

1. [Obtain an CLIA certificate](#) or partner with an entity with a CLIA certificate
2. Secure a signed physician order for testing or elect to use the [Statewide Order](#)
3. Ensure all testing personnel have completed [training modules](#)
4. Obtain consent prior to testing students and notify parents/guardians when testing performed
5. Verify ability to meet [DHHS reporting requirements](#)
6. Maintain an [adequate supply](#) of PPE to perform tests
7. Adhere to standards to properly handle and dispose of [medical waste](#)
8. Plan for safe isolation and quarantine

Schools can choose to meet these requirements **independently or partner** with a provider, laboratory or other similar organization.

Funding Resource:

Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS)

What is EANS?

- Program administered by the Office of the Governor in conjunction with DPI

Who is eligible? What services are eligible?

- Nonpublic schools are eligible to apply for this funding
- Schools may apply to receive services or assistance to **address educational disruptions caused by COVID-19** (i.e. physical barriers, COVID-19 testing and tracing)
- Schools may also **receive reimbursement** for any service or assistance related to educational disruptions caused by COVID-19 **employed after 3/13/20**

More Information

- The [EANS application](#) opened on **Thursday, March 25th** and closes on **Friday, May 21st**
- More information about this funding source can be found on the [DPI website](#)

Next Steps for Non-Public Schools interested in free antigen tests

- Online request form and testing guidance launch online via NC DHHS: **Available now!**
- Non-public schools can **begin requesting tests** via online request form as soon as they are able to demonstrate that they meet all testing requirements
- **NC DHHS will provide the following resources to support interested schools:**
 - Weekly office hours to answer questions from interested or enrolled sites
 - Weekly DHHS-hosted training sessions on test results reporting platform, *eCATR PTR*
 - StrongSchoolsNC@dhhs.nc.gov for ongoing questions and support

Reach out to
StrongSchoolsNC@dhhs.nc.gov
for ongoing questions and
support about NC DHHS K-12
COVID-19 response





Appendix: Vaccine Communications Resources

New Resources

New materials available

- Top Ten Facts
- Developing COVID-19 Vaccines infographic
- Social media graphics and content
- Community posters

Materials in English and Spanish

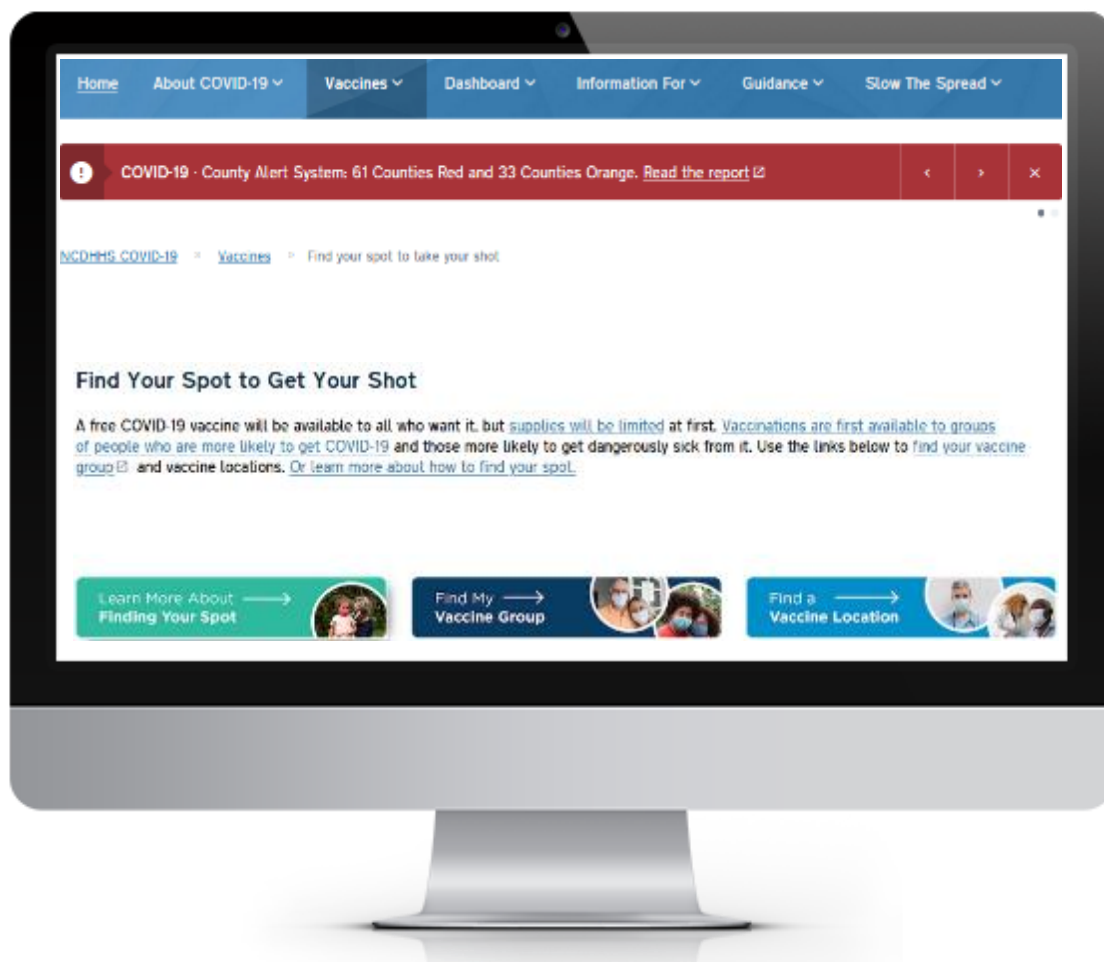
The collage features three main resource cards. The first card, '10 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT COVID-19 VACCINE', lists key information about vaccine safety and effectiveness. The second card, 'How Safe and Effective COVID-19 Vaccines Come to the U.S.', details the regulatory process from clinical trials to distribution. The third card, 'TWO SHOTS are necessary to fight COVID-19', emphasizes the need for a second shot 3-4 weeks after the first. All cards include the 'YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT.' logo and the website 'YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov'.

The screenshot shows the 'NCDHHS: COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit' website. The header features the 'YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT.' logo and the NC Department of Health and Human Services seal. The main heading is 'NCDHHS: COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Toolkit'. Below this, there's a 'CAMPAIGN' section with the title 'You Have A Spot. Take Your Shot.' and a 'DESCRIPTION' section explaining the toolkit's purpose. A 'HASHTAGS' section lists various social media tags. A navigation bar includes links for 'Brand Guidelines', 'Social Media Graphics', 'Flyers', 'Post Cards', 'Presentation/Reports', 'Website and Newsletter Graphics', and 'Video Library'. A footer section contains a download icon and the text 'FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WHEN PRODUCING ANY MATERIALS IN SUPPORT OF THE YOU HAVE A SPOT. TAKE YOUR SHOT. CAMPAIGN', with buttons for 'Brand and Usage Guidelines (URL)' and 'Brand and Usage Guidelines (PDF)'.

New Easy-to-Use Toolkit

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-communications-toolkit>

Expanded Web Tools: Eligibility Tracker, Vaccination Locator



<http://yourspotyourshot.nc.gov/>

Find your spot to take your shot

Please note: Until Fall 2020, COVID-19 has been notified for the federal government of continued delays in some shipments and deliveries of COVID-19 vaccine. It is worth noting to some residents. This delay may cause vaccination appointments to be postponed or rescheduled. Click [here](#).

Because vaccine supplies are still limited, you may have to wait. Here is how to take your shot against COVID-19.

- Supplies are very limited. Right now, very few vaccine doses are available.
- You will likely need an appointment to get vaccinated. You may have to wait to schedule your appointment to get your vaccine.
- Your local vaccine provider can help you get vaccinated. Because supplies are very limited right now, your vaccine provider cannot provide vaccinations in their offices.
- You can also call the COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center 1-800-675-4567. It's a free call.

The COVID-19 vaccine will be available to everyone for free, whether or not you have health insurance. You will need two shots to build up your immunity. You will get a practice shot and a second to protect you to come back a set of weeks later for your second dose. Your personal information is private and strictly confidential.

Need transportation to and from your vaccine provider?

People who need transportation should call a COVID-19 vaccine provider and should reach out to their local transit agency. You can find your local transit agency on [go.nc.gov/COVID-19](#) and call the phone number listed for your local transit agency. Some of 100 North Carolina counties.

Find A Vaccine Location



Now you can find your spot to get your shot. Use the map to find your spot to get your shot.

Find Local Vaccine Providers Near You

Use this tool to find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you in North Carolina. Enter your zip code or search by current location to find the closest vaccine providers.

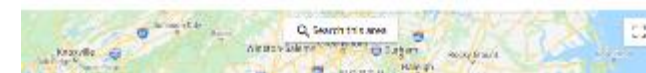
Vaccine will be available to all who want it, but supplies are currently limited. You may have to wait.

North Carolina is currently vaccinating Groups 1 and 2. Not all vaccine providers may be ready to vaccinate your group yet. Don't know what group you're in? Visit [Find My Vaccine Group](#) to find your vaccination group.

You will likely need an appointment to get vaccinated. You may have to wait to schedule your appointment to get your vaccine. Please contact the provider to find out which groups they are currently vaccinating.

Search by zip code or current location

5 Miles 10 Miles 25 Miles No limit



Find My Vaccine Group

Do you currently live, work or volunteer full or part time in any of the following?

- ☐ Health Care settings (including hospitals, outpatient clinics, COVID-19 testing or vaccination sites, home health care, public health clinical services, emergency medical services, mortuaries, and pharmacies)
- ☐ Long-Term Care Facilities (including assisted care homes, skilled nursing facilities, extended care homes, group homes, continuing care retirement communities, independent retirement facilities)
- ☐ None of the above

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